

## Good Citizen Lesson Plan

The purpose of the first activity is to check students' understanding of what qualities identify a good citizen.

### Essential Question:

What makes a good citizen?

### Activity

Qualities of a good citizen chart. Students will each be given a piece of paper to identify good citizen qualities to place on a KWL chart or this could be done as a Knowledge survey:

**Good Citizen: Yes/No/Not sure**

After they have completed their chart/survey follow with a class discussion. Then have students sort into categories to identify key concepts of being a good citizen: Obeying the law, voting, paying attention to government and politics, contacting elected officials about issues and problems, volunteering to help others, donating money to help others.

### Materials

“Citizenship– A Challenge for all Generations”

<http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/citizenship.pdf>

### Citizen Knowledge Survey

Registered to vote	voted in all elections
Does homework	always follows the speed limits
threw out the absentee ballot	Tutors elementary school kids
Read the newspaper everyday	Gives to the Salvation Army
Ran for a school office	Picked up trash
Donates Blood	Called a Senator
Worked on a neighborhood committee	recycles
Didn't vote	can food drive
Didn't stop at a crosswalk	Litters
Sells Meth	Didn't give to the Red Cross
Drives fast	Smokes cigarettes
Wrote a letter to the editor	complains
Smokes in public	goes to school
Public Protesting	visit state Capital
Getting an education	not registered to vote
Registered but doesn't vote	reads the voters pamphlet
Volunteers at local food bank	bake cookies for a bake sale
Have a car wash	gives a pack of cigarettes to a 16 yr old friend
Complains about the WASL	attend city council meeting
Watches TVW/CSPAN	aware of current events

Knows who is President of the US  
Know where the state capital is  
Chewing gum in class  
Getting your pet neutered or spayed  
Letting your pet wander  
Recycles

donates old bike/clothes  
tags the freeway underpass  
sharpening a pencil while teacher is talking  
Unemployed  
taking a bag while walking your dog  
Not taking responsibility for your actions

List can be modified as needed.

### Procedure

Review classroom expectations on day one. Day two: students brainstorm or journal in response to “What are the qualities of a good citizen?” Day three: Conduct Citizen Knowledge survey. Tally results to determine percentages. Extension: Home/School connection students could survey friends, family teachers.